REFERENCE BY THE CHAIR

The victims of devastating cyclone in myanmar

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, you are aware that in Myanmar more than 10,000 people are reported to have been killed in a cyclone that struck the Irrawady delta during the last weekend.

I am sure that the whole House will join me in expressing its sympathies and condolences to the bereaved families.

I request the Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of respect t the memory of those who lost their lives in this tragedy.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute)

...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question no. 561. ...*(Interruptions)*.. I would request the hon. Members not to come to the Well. ...*(Interruptions)*... प्लीज़, आप अपनी जगह पर वापस चले जाएं ...(व्यवधान)... Hon. Members, please go back to your places. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please go back to your places. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please go back to your places. ...*(Interruptions)*... Question No. 561. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please go back to your places. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please go back to your places. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please go back to your places. आप लोग मेहरबानी करके अपनी जगह पर वापस चले जाएं ...(व्यवधान)... ...*(Interruptions)*... Please go back to your places. ...*(Interruptions)*... The House is adjourned till 12 O'clock today.

The House then adjourned at seven minutes past eleven of the clock.

The House reassembled at 12-00 Noon

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) in the Chair]

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Special tourism status to Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand

*561. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the States which have been accorded special tourism status;

(b) the funds allocated by Government to each of such States during the last three year year-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal to accord special tourism status to Uttar Prade Uttarakhand;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when the decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Ministry of Tourism, Government of India does not have any scheme for according special tourism status to States.

(b) to (e) Do not arise. However, the Ministry of Tourism extends financial assistance to State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for tourism related projects, identified

in consultation with them, under the Scheme 'Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits'. Project proposals received from the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, compliant with extant guidelines, are approved and funds released subject to availability.

Supply of gas through pipelines in the country

*562. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to supply cooking gas to consumers through pipelines in the country, particularly in Jyotiba Phule Nagar and Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the details of the funds sanctioned/spent so far and the time schedule fixed for the completion of the scheme;

(d) the expected number of consumers to be benefited under this scheme;

(e) whether gas cylinders are likely to be taken from the consumers covered under the scheme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (d) Piped Natural Gas (PNG) is being supplied to domestic customers in Delhi, Noida, Mumbai and its suburbs, Agartala in Tripura and in various cities in Gujarat and Assam. As on 1 January, 2008, it is reported that PNG is being supplied to 802217 domestic consumers. The supply to these cities has been possible because of proximity to sources of gas and trunk gas pipelines. However, City Gas Distribution project has not been implemented in Jyotiba Phule Nagar and Moradabad, U.P.

Government does not sanction/earmark funds for this purpose. However, in order to promote investment from public as well as private sector for laying trunk natural gas pipelines and city/local natural gas distribution networks throughout the country, the Government of India has enacted 'The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006' and notified the 'Policy for Development of Natural Gas Pipelines and City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks'.

Providing of PNG facilities depends upon availability of gas, setting up of necessary infrastructure and economic viability.

(e) and (f) The Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have been advised by Government to take measures to block connections of domestic LPG customers who are covered by PNG.

Requirement of chartered accountants

†*563. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of chartered accountants required in the country at present;

(b) the total number of educational institutions which provide education in the discipline of chartered accountancy in the country at present and the total number of seats in these institutions;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.